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Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-seventh session
Agenda items 102 and 103

Advancement of Women

Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 9 December 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of Chile and Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We, the Permanent Representatives of Chile and Denmark, also representing the participants from the European Union, have the honour to transmit herewith a report of the Conference, held in Santiago on 4 and 5 November 2002, on the role of women in peacekeeping operations (see annex). The meeting, which was attended by participants from 35 Member States and 10 non-governmental organizations, expressed a strong commitment to the enhancement of the role of women in peacekeeping operations and peace processes.

We should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 102 and 103, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Juan Gabriel **Valdés**
Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Ellen Margrethe **Løj**
Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 9 December 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of Chile and Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Report of the conference on the role of women in peacekeeping operations

Santiago, Chile, 4 and 5 November 2002

With the participation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile, Mrs. Soledad Alvear, the Minister Director of National Service for Women of Chile, Mrs. Adriana Delpiano, the Minister of Defence of Chile, Mrs. Michelle Bachelet, and the Minister of Defence of Denmark, Mr. Svend Aage Jensby, a biregional conference on the role of women in peacekeeping operations was held in Santiago on 4 and 5 November 2002.

The conference was the result of discussions held at the Summits between the Heads of State and Government of Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union in Rio in 1999 and in Madrid in 2002, and was organized through joint cooperation between the Governments of Chile and Denmark and the European Union, with the primary objective of enhancing cooperation in the two regions through an interchange of views on gender issues and the role of women in peacekeeping operations and peace processes.

While originally conceived as a gathering of a group of experts, the meeting was attended by representatives from various sectors of the participating countries. A total of 100 participants attended the meeting, representing 35 Member States and 10 non-governmental organizations. Seventeen speakers presented papers on the gender perspective from the global and regional viewpoints.

The conference focused mainly on the critical role played by women in peace-building and situations of armed conflict, where women and girls constitute the majority of victims.

On the basis of findings and opinion polls obtained in the course of the meeting, a series of preliminary recommendations were made on peace-related issues, which served as a working document for the participants at the conference.

The following list of recommendations were submitted for consideration by Member States and non-governmental organizations:

- Promote the participation of women in peacekeeping operations and achieve equal status for men and women in these operations by 2015, as recommended in the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations;
- Take concrete action to increase the representation of women as military observers in order to reach the overall target of up to one third over, as a minimum deadline, a two-year period;
- Member States should provide an updated list of qualified women candidates, including military as well as civilian candidates, to serve in peace support operations and at high-level positions;

- Member States should increase concrete actions to implement the objectives of the first World Conference on Women, held in Mexico in 1975;
- Create and promote women's networks in uniform to ensure the integration of gender perspectives in the different aspects of the work of peacekeeping missions;
- Continue to broaden the interchange of experiences and ideas, with a view to making formal recommendations at a second conference to be organized in the near future.

Because of the importance of the issues discussed at the conference, it will be included as part of the agenda of the next Meeting of Defence Ministers of the Americas, which is to be held in Santiago.

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda items 13, 36 and 50

Report of the International Court of Justice

The situation in the Middle East

Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Letter dated 9 December 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I write to you today in my capacity as the Chairman of the Arab Group at the United Nations for the month of December 2002 and on behalf of the States Members of the League of Arab States. In this regard, I wish to address in specific the issue of the City of Jerusalem, a central issue for all of the Members of the Arab Group.

Recently, the General Assembly, on 3 December 2002, once again adopted a resolution reaffirming basic and enduring principles with regard to Jerusalem. In reflection of the importance ascribed by the whole of the international community to this issue as well as the international consensus on the issue, the overwhelming majority of Member States voted in support of the resolution. In this regard, resolution 57/111, entitled "Jerusalem" and adopted under agenda item 36, "The situation in the Middle East", received a total of 154 votes in favour, 5 against and 6 abstentions. That resolution, inter alia, recalls relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980. It also reaffirms the legitimate interest of the international community in the question of the City of Jerusalem and the protection of the unique spiritual and religious dimension of the City, as foreseen in relevant United Nations resolutions. Significantly, the resolution reiterates the determination of the Assembly that any actions taken by Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem are illegal and therefore null and void. Moreover, it stresses that a just and lasting solution to the question of the City of Jerusalem should take into account the legitimate concerns of the Palestinian and Israeli sides and should include internationally guaranteed provisions to ensure the freedom of religion of its inhabitants as well as permanent, free and unhindered access to the holy places by the people of all religions and nationalities.

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With regard in specific to the vote on the above-mentioned resolution, the Members of the Arab Group were greatly disappointed by the change in the position of one country in particular, the United States of America, from an abstention to a negative vote on the resolution. The relevance of the position taken by the United States on the issue of Jerusalem cannot be underestimated, particularly in light of its role as a major player in, and main sponsor of, the Middle East peace process. As such, this change in vote is of concern to the Members of the Arab Group. Moreover, this position, taken in violation of relevant Security Council resolutions and relevant provisions of international law, could potentially harm future efforts to reach a peaceful solution of the question of Jerusalem based on principles of international law as well as justice and equity.

The Members of the Arab Group believe that the issue of Jerusalem requires close scrutiny and serious follow-up by both the Secretary-General and the Security Council, including with regard to respect for and the implementation of relevant resolutions. For its part, the Arab Group will closely monitor the situation as well as the impact of any change in position. This shall include, if necessary, the invoking of the available international mechanisms to ensure compliance with international law and relevant Security Council resolutions.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 13, 36 and 50.

(*Signed*) Ahmed A. **Own**
Chairman of the Arab Group
Chargé d'affaires a.i.